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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

KABUL FOR COS USFOR-A
STATE FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A, S/CRS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG
NSC FOR JWOOD
OSD FOR MCGRAW
CG CJTF-101, POLAD, JICCEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: KEY DATES FOR AFGHANISTAN'S 2009 ELECTIONS

11. (SBU) UNDP/ELECT on February 10 shared its schedule of key dates for Afghanistan's 2009 presidential and provincial council elections with donor representatives. The schedule reflects both election operations, as organized by Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC), and UNDP/ELECT project funding benchmarks.

12. (SBU) UNDP's schedule is:

16 February IEC and UNDP finalize election budget.

20 February IEC and UNDP finalize financial plan for election.

28 February IEC and UNDP close voter registration budget.

1 March UNDP and donors finalize financial agreements.

19 March IEC and UNDP finalize resources, quantities, and specifications for election materials.

31 March UNDP/ELECT requires 50-60 M USD in funds to issue purchase orders.

21 April IEC publishes electoral calendar.

25 April to 8 May Candidate nomination period.

30 April UNDP/ELECT requires balance of 2009 budget.

9 May to 15 May Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) scrutinizes candidate applications.

16 May ECC notifies candidates of any deficiencies in nomination applications.

17 May to 22 May Candidates must remedy any deficiencies in nomination applications.

23 May to 25 May ECC prepares preliminary list of candidates.

26 May to 1 June ECC displays preliminary list of candidates, challenges, corrections, appeals.

26 May to 8 June ECC conducts hearings and issues decisions.

26 May to 8 June ECC and/or DIAG (TBD) vet preliminary list of candidates.

9 June ECC informs IEC of candidates list decisions.

9 June to 11 June IEC prepares list of candidates and finalizes ballot designs.

11 June IEC sends final ballot to printer.

11 June IEC publishes final list of candidates.

15 July Ballot printing complete.

16 June to 18 August Campaign period for candidates and parties.

16 July Ballots delivered to Kabul.

17 July to 19 August IEC packs ballots and kits for distribution to polling centers.

20 August Voting day.

20 August IEC retrieves results from polling centers.

17 September IEC certifies final results of presidential election.

1 October Planned date for presidential run-off election, if required.

WOOD